

THE
EARLE
OF
STRAFFORDS
SPEECH ON THE
Scaffold before he was be-
headed on Tower-hill, the
12. of May, 1641.



London Printed, 1641.

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MY Lord Primate of *Ireland*
(and my Lords, and the
rest of these Gentlemen)
it is a very great comfort
to me, to have your
Lordship by mee this
day, in regard I have been
knowne to you a long
time, I should be very glad to obtain so much
silence, as to be heard a few words, but I doubt
I shall not; my Lord I come hither by the
good will and pleasure of Almighty God, to
pay

pay that last debt I owe to sin, which is death,
and by the blessing of that God to rise againe
through the merits of Christ Jesus to eternall
glory: I wish I had been private, that I might
have been heard; My Lord, if I might bee so
much beholding to you, that I might use a few
words, I should take it for a very great curtesie;
My Lord, I come hither to submit to that
judgement which hath past against me, I doe it
with a very quiet and contented minde; I doe
freely forgive all the world, a forgiveness that
is not spoken from teeth outward (as they say)
but from the heart; I speak it in the presence
of Almighty God, before whom I stand, that
there is not so much as a displeasing thought
in me arising to any creature; I thanke God I
may say truly, and my Conscience beares mee
witness, that in all my services since I have
had the honour to serve his Majesty in any em-
ployment, I never had any thing in my heart,
but the joynt and individuall prosperity of
King and People; if it have been my hap to
be misconstrued, it is the common portion of
all while we are in this life, the righteous
judgement is hereafter, here we are subject to
error, and apt to be misjudged one of another;
there is one thing I desire to cleare my selfe of,
and I am very confident, I speake it with so
much clearenesse, that I hope I shall have your
Christian charity in the belief of it, I did al-

waies ever thinke the Parliaments of England, were the happiest Constitutions that any Kingdome, or any Nation lived under, and under God the meanes of making King and People happy ; so far have I been from being against Parliaments ; for my death, I here acquit all the world, and pray God heartily to forgive them ; and in particular, my Lord Primate, I am very glad that his Majesty is pleased to conceive me not meriting so severe, and heavy a punishment as the utmost execution of this sentence ; I am very glad, and infinitely rejoyce in this mercy of his, and beseech God to turne it to him, that he may finde mercy when he hath most need of it ; I wish this Kingdome all the prosperity and happynesse in the world : I did it living, and now dying it is my wish, I doe now professe it from my heart, and doe most humbly recommend it unto every man here, and wish every man to lay his hand upon his heart, and consider seriously whether the beginning of the happynesse of a People should be written in letters of Blood, I feare you are in a wrong way, and I desire Almighty God that no one drop of my Blood may rise up in judgement against you.

(My Lord,) I professe my selfe a true and obedient Son to the Church of England, to that Church wherein I was borne, and wherein I was bred ; *prosperity and happynesse*, be ever to

And whereas it hath been said that I have
 inclin'd to Popery, if it be an Objection worth
 answering, let me say truly, that from the time
 since I was one and twenty yeares of age, till
 this houre, now going upon 49th I never had
 thought in my heart, to doubt of the truth of my
 Religion in *England*: and never any had the
 boldnesse to suggest to me the contrary, to the
 best of my remembrance; and so being recon-
 ciled to the mercies of *Christ Iesus* my Savi-
 our, into whose bosome I hope shortly to be
 gath'ed to those eternall happinesse that shall
 never have end. I desire heartily the forgive-
 nesse of every man, both for any rash or unad-
 vised word, or deed, and desire your Prayers.
 And so my Lords farewell, farewell all the
 things of this world, L O R D strengthen my
 faith, give me confidence and assurance in the
 merits of *Christ Iesus*. I desire you that you
 would be silent and joyne in Prayers with me;
 and I trust in G O D that we shall all meet and
 live eternally in Heaven, there to receive the
 accomplishment of all happinesse, where eve-
 ry teare shall be wiped from our eyes, and eve-
 ry sad thought from our hearts: And so God
 bleesse this Kingdome, and *Iesus* have mercy up-
 on my Soule,

FINIS.